

STORY 48.

MUSLIMS CONSTANCY AND FORTITUDE.

(HAZRAT) KHUBAIB was a companion of the Prophet. The Koresh took him prisoner and brought him to Mecca, where a person bought him, so that he might kill him in revenge for the death of his brother who had been slain in the battle of Badr.

(Hazrat) Khubaib was confined in a room under the supervision of a woman named Maryam. He was not at all concerned about his impending death and passed his days and nights in saying prayers and reciting the Quran.

One day Maryam said to him " (Hazrat) Khubaib, let me know if you have any wish ?" He said " I have no wish except that when they fix the day of my death, you may kindly tell me before-hand." When the fixed day came she let him know. Upon this he asked her for a

razor for some private need. She sent him a razor by her son but soon felt alarmed lest he should kill the child and so she at once made for his cell and stood behind the door. She saw that he had seated the child on his knee and was saying to him, " O brave child ! Was not your mother afraid that she has sent the razor by you ? Does she not know that there is bitter enmity between us and I may kill you ? " When the mother heard this she felt very uneasy and broke

out " (Hazrat) Khubaib ; surely I did not send the razor for this purpose. I trusted you . " Upon this he replied. " Lady rest assured, we Muslims are people who never play false with any body. "

At last the time came when they took him out to nail him to the cross. He said to them : " I shall be very much obliged if you allow me to say a short prayer." They complied with his request, and when he had said his prayer he spoke out. " By God, if I had not been afraid (of your suspicion) that I have prolonged my prayer for fear of death I would have gone on enjoying my prayer for hours." At last they crucified him. Before they finished him one of them said to him, " We will spare you yet if you renounce Islam. " He replied " My friends surely I have not requested you to spare me, and I have no desire to live an unbeliever. What is life worth without Islam ? Even if you place the wealth of the whole world at my feet as a condition of my abjuring Islam I will spurn it." Thus he remained sted-fast to the end and expired with the Kalima on his lips.